

City of La Verkin

435 North Main St., LaVerkin Utah, 84745

(435) 635-2581 Fax (435) 635-2104

www.laverkin.org

La Verkin City Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 7, 2015 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, 111 S. Main, LaVerkin, Utah

Present: Mayor Kerry Gubler; Council-Members: Richard Hirschi, Ken Hooten, Randy Reeve, Micah Gubler, and Chantelle Browning; Staff: Derek Imlay, Troylinn Benson, Kevin Bennett, Chief Ben Lee, and Christy Ballard; Public: Blair Gubler, Chief Tom Kuhlmann, Patti Decker, Anita DeMille, Jan Last, Bob Wilson, Steve Leavenworth, Amber White, Charlotte West, John DuCrest, Celeste Maloy, George Rodinos, Jim Soria, Hyrum Neizer, HoneyBee Brenchley, Mr. Simmons, and the Mangum Family

Kyle Gubler has been excused.

A. Called to Order – Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was given by Steve Leavenworth at 6:00pm

B. Recognitions:

The Mangum family had not arrived yet.

C. Presentation:

1. County Resource Management Plan

Celeste Maloy was here to discuss two separate resource management plans. She was hired by the Washington County Attorney's office to write Washington County's Resource Management Plan so she is going to each of the municipalities to get input. Twenty-eight different areas need to be addressed in the Plan. She would like La Verkin to let her know what is important to this community and what they would like to see addressed in the Plan.

The idea behind the Resource Management Plan is to put something together that will guide the direction of our resources now and in the future. Right now, only Federal Agencies write resource management plans but they have to accommodate in their plan the local plan. That is why it is important for us to have a good, well-written plan with public input.

The other resource plan is the BLM's Draft Resource Management Plan for the two national conservation areas in the County. The County Attorney would like to encourage citizens to comment on this plan. They would also like cities and towns to submit a substantive comment so that the BLM will have to address it, either by changing the Plan or explaining why the requested change was not made. The deadline for this comment is Thursday, October 15th.

Attached is a copy of her presentation. See Exhibit A.

Councilwoman Browning asked about the feedback from citizens to this point.

Celeste replied most feedback the BLM has received is to not affect the tortoise. However, many of those comments are from environmental groups sending out notices to their supporters all around the world, already filled out so the person only has to sign, address and mail in the response.

The Washington County Attorney's office has made it just as easy for citizens to submit a comment by going to their website.

Recognitions: The Mangum family has arrived. The Mayor presented Susan and her daughter with a certificate of appreciation and gift card for their work on the seed display for the Washington County Fair.

2. Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader

JJ Tanner has been excused, Jan Last will be presenting in his place.

Steve Leavenworth reported the third graders from 2014 scored the highest in the District in math and the third highest in language arts. He is proud of the progress the students have made since beginning this project.

Jan is a kindergarten teacher at La Verkin Elementary. She has noticed the growth in her students since the start of the program. Each child in the school has a leadership position. She thanked La Verkin for the monetary donation last year. The Legislature promised a certain amount of money for people participating in the Leader in Me program but has since renegotiated and now there is not that financial support. The school has decided to continue to move forward with the program so any support would be appreciated.

On October 22, 2015 from 10am-11am, there will be another leadership/community event. Jan explained the program and invited the Councilmembers and staff to participate.

D. Consent Agenda: (Items on the consent agenda may not require discussion. These items will be a single motion unless removed at the request of the Mayor or City Council.)

1. Declarations of conflict of interest
2. Agenda
3. Minutes: September 2, 2015 regular meeting minutes
4. Review Invoices and Checks: \$187,585.48

Motion was made by Councilman Richard Hirschi to approve the consent agenda as written including the September 2, 2015 regular meeting minutes and the checks and invoices in the amount of \$187,585.48 second by Councilwoman Chantelle Browning. Roll Call Vote: Reeve-yes, Gubler-yes, Hooten-yes, Hirschi-yes, Browning-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Committee Reports:

1. Planning Commission-Councilman Hirschi reported there has not been a meeting. It has been rescheduled for October 28.
2. Water Board-No meeting.
3. Sewer Board-Blair reported the District is still discussing septic tanks. They did receive some direction and continue to move forward.
The District signed an agreement with John Deere to get some new backhoes.
They also began planning for next year's budget.
4. Fire District-Chief Kuhlmann reported they are getting the La Verkin fire station ready to begin the project. They will try to work around the apparatus.
There is a meeting with the CIB in September to discuss financing for an apparatus to service the hotels in La Verkin.
The County is in the process of dissolving the Leeds Area Special Service District and placing their boundaries in the HVFSSD.

Councilman Hirschi mentioned that when the military was here helping Colorado City, they stayed at the fire stations.

F. Citizen Comment & Request for Future Agenda Items:

John DuCrest-He asked if "The Beautiful Valley" was the official town moto, if so, he wondered why the sign coming into La Verkin says "the bridge to Zion". There are 3 1/2 million people a year that come through here traveling to Zion National Park. A bridge is a structure used to get from point A to point B. There have been some great things done in La Verkin; to him it is a beautiful valley. It doesn't feel like a bridge to Zion. He feels it would be beneficial to allocate funds to change the sign to state the town moto. Mr. DuCrest would be willing to present the idea formally during a city council meeting if they would like it on an agenda.

Bob Wilson-is a resident of Virgin. He has been volunteering at the animal shelter for the past 4 years. He is here today to show support for Mr. Rodinos who is asking for a beer and wine license. He and Mr.

Rodinos have been neighbors and friends for the last 9 years. George is a wonderful person. The Stage Coach Grille is a very good restaurant. He is in favor of George receiving the beer and wine license.

Mayor Gubler explained the public hearing for Mr. Rodinos is next on the agenda.

HoneyBee Brenchley -She stated she is not from the community but is part of the community. She would love to see the City Council of La Verkin and Toquerville get together and expand the services to include homeless cats and dogs. As it currently sets there is nothing offered to help the cat problem situation. The shelter is small and is not set up to even take in a litter of kittens. She knows people feel the area has a country type atmosphere but the community is growing and there are a lot more resources. She suggested looking for a grant to expand the facility. She was told that at its conception, the facility was promised to be the best. As it sets now, it is run wonderfully but La Verkin does have a cat problem and there is no place for the kittens to go.

Best Friends Animal Sanctuary is not far but both communities have let the problem fall on the shoulders of private citizens and private money. Citizens have been taking these animals into their homes.

Susan Baird has individually saved and re-homed thousands of this cities animals, mainly cats.

The shelter does great with dogs.

Susan is no longer on Best Friends priority list because they are having financial problems with how many animals there are. The priority list for Best Friends is now shelters, like the one in La Verkin but La Verkin doesn't take cats.

The shelter receives calls every day asking if they take cats. She feels it is a disservice to the community to leave all of the responsibility to private citizens. She enjoys helping out but feels it needs to be treated like a community problem because it is one. If there is a way to expand the La Verkin shelter to include cats then they could get to Best Friends.

This is a farming community and a lot of farmers have the idea that they are just cats, they can be mousers which is very outdated thinking.

The adoption events and fundraisers are all done by private citizens because the community, the board, the leadership have turned their back on the issue.

Let's see if there are some grants to expand the facility.

Mr. Simmons-Supports everything HoneyBee just said. His experience is with a stray that showed up in his yard. He was afraid she would end up pregnant so he contacted Patti who helped him get her taken care of. He contacted several different agencies and they are all overwhelmed and won't take in other cities animals. He completely supports the proposition and would like the Council to please consider it. He also thanked Celeste Maloy for her incredible and troubling presentation. He is very troubled about the encroachment in our personal lives and our territory. The citizens of Utah should control the lands. He is very interested in helping any way he can.

G. Public Hearing:

1. Class B liquor license application-George Rodinos, Stage Coach Grille

The public hearing opened at 6:50pm.

Charlotte West-Has been a citizen of La Verkin for 3 years. She has known Mr. Rodinos for many years prior to that. He and his wife are of good character and have good standing in the community. She does work for Mr. Rodinos and has seen both the friendship and employer side of the Rodinos'. The Stage Coach is setting a great example for their employees and the community with their values. She sees no reason why they should not get a liquor license. It will help the income for this community and those that work there.

John DuCrest-He has known George for a little while, has watched him build his business from the ground up. The atmosphere at the Stage Coach Grille is very professional. It doesn't strike him to be a

place where people will go to get drunk, it feels like a restaurant, not a bar and won't attract that type of crowd. George is an extremely hard worker and is respected by those that work for him. John has a lot of respect for him also.

Jim Soria-is a business owner in La Verkin. He feels allowing George to receive his beer and wine license would be good for La Verkin as a whole. There are so many tourists staying in La Verkin, more when the new hotel is open. The vast majority of these people want to have wine or beer with their meal. It is part of their culture, part of their life it's not about getting drunk. He has a beer license at his coffee shop and has not had one incident yet with people over consuming. People just want to enjoy their meal, the atmosphere and have a beverage. He doesn't feel this will bring any harm to the community. There won't be people getting over intoxicated and driving down the streets creating mayhem.

Amber White-is a resident of La Verkin. She is a regular at both Stage Coach Grille and River Rock Roasting Company. She does not drink beer with her lunch but would for dinner. She was at Stage Coach Grille a few evenings ago when a couple from out of state asked her if they served beer, so the need is there. She is in favor of issuing a beer and wine license to George.

Patti Decker-She would like to show her support for George and the Stage Coach Grille. The business is doing very well and she feels it would be a nice addition for all of the reasons previously stated. She doesn't personally drink but that doesn't mean other people shouldn't be allowed to enjoy a beer or glass of wine with their meal.

Hyrum Neizer-is a resident of La Verkin. The cat issue is a real issue and he agrees with what has been said.

He gets many visitors from out of state that don't like to have to drive so far to get a drink. It takes away from the atmosphere; he thinks a liquor license at a restaurant would be a good idea, especially in such a nice restaurant.

George Rodinos-is the owner of the Stage Coach Grille. He is very moved with all of the support. He would only like to add he has complied with a slew of paperwork for the State and the City. He and his wife have spent their life savings putting in the restaurant and it truly is a restaurant. It is not a dollar hot dog and beer type establishment. It is fine dining. He would like to emphasize the beer and wine is just a compliment to the menu, the food is the main attraction. They do get a lot of tourists as well as locals. He hopes the Council will vote in favor of issuing him the beer and wine license.

The public hearing closed at 7:00pm.

H. Business:

1. Discussion and possible action concerning the Stage Coach Grille Class B Liquor License.

Councilman Hirschi stated he is in favor of issuing the license. He doesn't drink beer but there are a lot of people that travel through La Verkin that do. His main concern is that people consume too much alcohol and then drive but that doesn't seem to be an issue with River Rock.

Councilman Hooten stated he remembered when River Rock received their beer license and since that time, he has not heard one negative comment or incident because of the license. He has been to the Stage Coach Grille several times and doesn't feel it would be a place people would go to just set down and drink. He is in favor of issuing the license.

Councilwoman Browning mentioned she is not in favor of people drinking and then driving and she doesn't feel it was an honest statement that people won't drink and then drive, drunk driving accidents happen all the time. She does realize that while she doesn't drink, there are other people that do enjoy

having a drink with their meal and she doesn't feel the City should prohibit people from being able to have the drink.

Motion was made by Councilman Richard Hirschi to give approval for a Class B liquor license for the Stage Coach Grille, second by Councilman Randy Reeve. Roll Call Vote: Browning-yes, Hirschi-yes, Hooten-yes, Gubler-yes, Reeve-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2015-09; An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2015-08, to set the amount of the City's administrative fee established and identified in section 4A-4-6 of the La Verkin City Code; and providing an effective date.

Mayor Gubler explained La Verkin would add eighteen cents, like the surrounding communities, making the fee \$4.00 a month for the program. He is not sure it will cover the expense.

The Council would just need to amend this ordinance if it was determined eighteen cents was not enough.

Troylinn said as of today, there have been 175 citizens out of 1,500 that have opted-out. The first 60 days will be the most time consuming for the billing department, and then again in January.

Motion was made by Councilman Ken Hooten to approve Ordinance No. 2015-09, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2015-08, setting the amount of the City's administrative fee to \$.18 per resident, established and identified in section 4A-4-6 of the La Verkin City Code and providing an effective date, second by Councilman Richard Hirschi. Roll Call Vote: Browning-no, Hirschi-yes, Hooten-yes, Gubler-yes, Reeve-yes. Motion passes.

I. Staff. Mayor & Council Reports:

Kyle has been excused but did email his report to the Councilmembers.

Public Safety- Chief Ben Lee

He just finished the hiring process to replace Officer Bulkley. There were only two qualified applicants, which was disappointing. Ross Fackler, one of our current reserve officers, was hired and will begin October 19th. The training process will be about 2-4 months.

Officer Bulkley was the departments' liaison for the Utah Criminal Justice Information System, which enables the officers to access criminal histories, etc. It is very expensive to train someone for that position so he contacted St. George dispatch who has allowed La Verkin to "piggy back" on their license. The same services will be provided but it will not cost the City anything.

Chief Lee was also able to secure two grants for the year. One is a \$2,000 JAG grant to help with much needed equipment. The second is the Beer Tax grant. He is also applying for a third, Highway Safety grant that will help with equipment and overtime DUI shifts. The Department has been receiving about eight shifts per quarter. Two of those shifts have resulted in a DUI arrest.

They are continuing to deal with fleet issues. The Ford Explorer has been down for over a week.

Councilwoman Browning asked if the code enforcement position would need to be filled now that Officer Fackler will be full time.

Chief replied the position is open.

The current code doesn't mention how much a reserve officer in La Verkin should make. He would like to increase the dollar amount we offer to attract more people. Several people have approached him from different agencies interested in working with La Verkin but \$12 an hour isn't enough to make it worth their time.

Right now, Chief is trying to absorb some of the cost of Officer Bulkley leaving so he is not going to fill the code enforcement position.

Officer Fackler has requested he still be reserve until his official start date. The other officers have been assigned code enforcement type tasks as well.

Councilman Hooten mentioned the traffic has not slowed down with the end of the tourist season. There are still have several people speeding and driving through the traffic signal every day. Is there a way an officer could spend more time doing traffic enforcement on Center Street and State Street when the school kids are leaving?

Chief replied it is his objective to have an officer there during the busy times. However, there are usually only two officers on duty during that time and sometimes they are in the middle of a call. He does appreciate the great job the crossing guards do and it is one of his goals to see how La Verkin can get flashing signs or a radar trailer.

Councilman Hooten would like to attend the next State Transportation Board meeting to discuss the situation. Something needs to be done before a child gets hurt.

Director of Operations-Derek Imlay

Derek passed out an Irrigation water usage sheet for September and a turbidity information sheet.

Treasurer-Troylinn Benson

Congratulated Kyle on his new granddaughter.

Lisia Hueckstaedt is the new utility billing clerk and is catching on very quickly. The office has been getting more calls than usual due to the new recycling program so there have been two receptionists at the front.

Mayor Gubler-Invited the Councilmembers to a luncheon on November 2nd.

Browning-Has not had a meeting since the Council last met.

She thanked Chief Lee for being pro-active in securing grants and Derek's crew for being so efficient on getting water breaks fixed. She would also like the Councilmembers to think about re-doing the policy on flextime. It leaves the City short staffed.

Hirschi- Nothing to report.

Hooten-Nothing to report.

Gubler-Nothing to report.

Reeve-Nothing to report.

J. Adjourn:

Motion was made by Councilwoman Chantelle Browning to adjourn, second by Councilman Ken Hooten. Motion carried unanimously at 7:23pm.

Minutes were taken on behalf of the City Recorder by Christy Ballard.

October 21, 2015

Date Approved

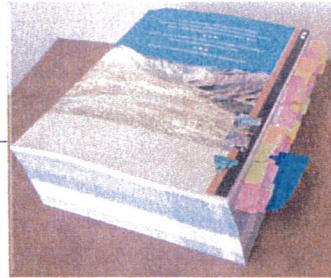
ATTEST:

Kyle Gubler
City Recorder

Kerry T. Gubler
Mayor Kerry T. Gubler

BLM Draft RMP Concerns

Proposals that may negatively affect the county, municipalities, and other interested local groups.



General Background Information



- Resource Management Planning – process and implications
- Washington County Lands Bill
- Current, one-sided, nature of most comments

California Condors

Table 2-15 Special Status Bird Species: California Condor

Table 2.3: Typical Status Wild Species: California Condor			
Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Goal			
	California condor (<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>) populations that may utilize habitats in the NCA would be stable or increasing, helping to meet recovery and delisting goals for this species.		
Objectives			
No similar action	Native vegetation communities and riparian areas sustain potential roosting sites and a high quality prey base for California condors. Environmental hazards that may affect California condors are reduced or eliminated.		
Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives			
Management of habitat would be consistent with the <i>Beaver Dam for the California Condor</i> (USFWS 1996) and Biological Opinions issued by USFWS.			
Management Actions			
No similar action	Safely raise the reintroduction, translocation, and supplemental releases of California condors into historic habitats in coordination with USFWS. Monitor and tabulate observations of California condors and their prey. Record any observed signs the NCA. Coordinate with partners (e.g., USFWS, National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation) to promote the use of non-lead ammunition in the NCA.		

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California Condors

California Condor

With a face only a mother could love, *Gymnogyps californianus* is a member of the vulture order. Like other vultures, condors are scavengers, feeding on dead mammals. The young, however, are fed by regurgitation. A wing span of nine to ten feet allows condors to soar on air currents to heights of 15,000 feet and travel hundreds of miles in one flight.

including 104 in the captive flock, and 17 in the wild. On October 18, 1996, USFWS announced plans to reintroduce California condors into northern Arizona and designate these birds as experimental populations, as provided by Section 101 of the ESA (USFWS 1996b). A portion of Washington County is within the experimental population area (USFWS 1996b, 1997a). However, California condors observed in NCA would be outside the boundary of the experimental non-essential population areas, and subject to the full protection of the ESA.

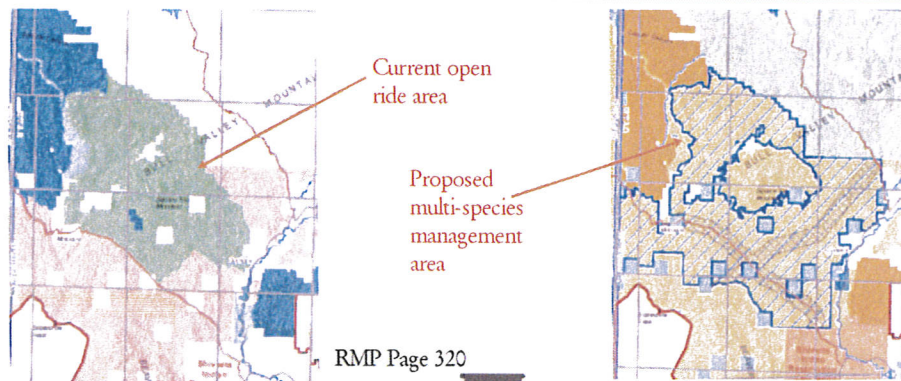
3.11.1.4 Mojave Desert Tortoise
Since 1971, the population of desert tortoise (also known as Agassiz's land tortoise) on the Beaver Dam Slope

Photo 3-43 California Condor, Federally Listed Endangered Species



RMP page 392 and 213

Loss of ATV Open Ride Area



Bull Mountain Multi-Species Management Area

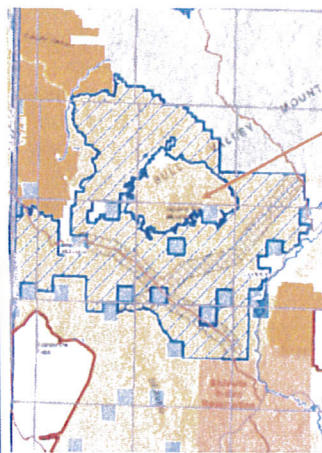


Table 2-71 Bull Valley Mountains Multi-Species Management Area

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Goal			
	Fulfill the mandate from OPLMA at Section 1979 to identify and manage areas where biological conservation is a priority.		
Objectives			
No similar action	Manage public lands to conserve and restore plant and animal species and natural communities.		
Management Actions			
No similar action	As directed by OPLMA, section 1979 and supported by Secretarial Order 1289 and Executive Order 13443, identify and manage the approximately 87,000-acre Bull Valley Mountains Multi-Species Management Area (Management Area) as a priority biological conservation area. (Map 2-50)		
Land-Use Adjustments			
Public lands may be transferred other than under land sale authority if subsequent analysis determines that such transfer will meet the land transfer criteria set forth in RMP 10-106.	Retain approximately 87,000 acres of public land in the Management Area in federal ownership.		
	Acquire non-federal lands within the Management Area through purchase, exchange, transfer, or donation. Manage acquired lands consistent with the management prescriptions of the adjacent public lands.		

RMP pages 313-315

Special Recreation Management Area Beaver Dam Wash

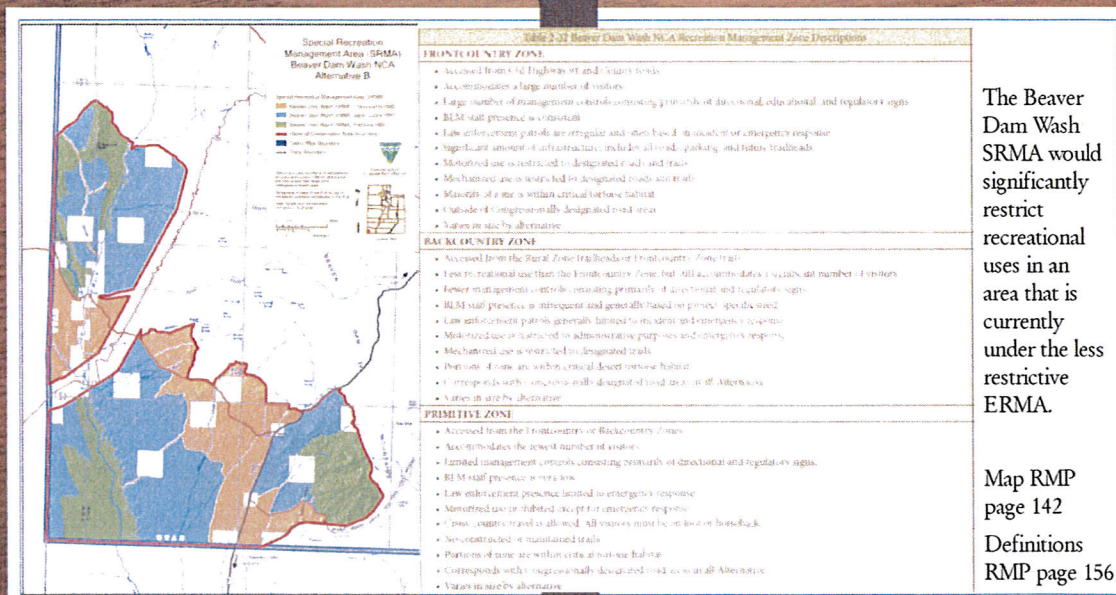
ERMA – Extensive
Recreation Management
Area

SRMA – Special Recreation
Management Area

Alternative B

Recreation and Visitor Services			
ERMA management would provide the minimum level of recreation management and opportunities.	Establishing SRMAs and RMZs in the NCA and increased public education efforts would provide more focused recreation opportunities and better visitor information. Also, some commercial, competitive, large group, and camping opportunities could be reduced or have more restrictions because of efforts to protect special status species habitats. Expanding the non-motorized trail systems in the NCAs would increase opportunities for backpacking and hiking.	Impacts on recreation and visitor services would be similar to Alternative B, except increased efforts to protect critical habitats could increase some of the restrictions on recreation use.	Impacts on recreation and visitor services would be similar to Alternative B, except some restrictions on competitive events and camping would be reduced.

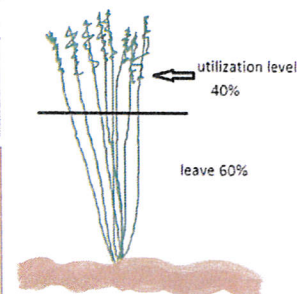
RMP Page 175



Grazing

Table 2-11 Vegetation Resource Uses: Livestock Grazing

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
No similar action.	Establish grazing utilization levels at <u>40% of current year's growth</u> on allotments in designated critical habitat for the desert tortoise.	Public lands within the NCA would be unavailable to grazing over the life of the RMP.	Establish grazing utilization levels at 45% of current year's growth on allotments in designated critical habitat for the desert tortoise.
No similar action.	When grazing permits and preference are voluntarily relinquished, the allotment or portion of the allotment associated with the permits within the NCA would <u>no longer be available for live stock grazing over the life of the RMP</u> .	Public lands within the NCA would be unavailable to grazing over the life of the RMP.	No similar action.



RMP page 84

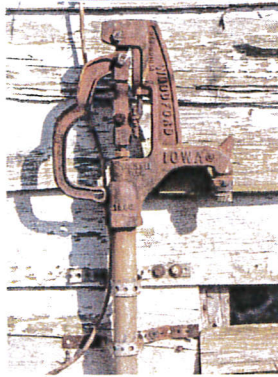
Table 2-11 Vegetation Resource Uses: Livestock Grazing

Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
place emphasis on monitor- touse management (see Map 2-9). Winter grazing on these allotments will continue in accordance with current grazing prescriptions from November 1 to March 15. Otherwise, grazing will be managed in accordance with the <i>Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan</i> , BLM's Rangeland Desert Tortoise Plan, and other applicable studies. Provide 3,099 initial AUMs of livestock forage within the NCA. AUM numbers may be adjusted depending on the results of ongoing rangeland monitoring. Provide 3,099 initial AUMs of livestock forage within the NCA. AUM numbers may be adjusted depending on the results of ongoing rangeland monitoring. (Map 2-1)	a) Beaver Dam Slope, b) Castle Cliffs, c) Cedar Pocket, d) Scarecrow Peak. Provide 1,861 initial Animal Unit Months (AUMs) of livestock forage through a reduction of permitted use to the 20 year average of actual use in the NCA. AUM num- bers may be adjusted depend- ing on the results of ongoing rangeland monitoring. (Map 2-1)	a) Beaver Dam Slope, b) Castle Cliffs, c) Cedar Pocket, d) Scarecrow Peak. Within designated critical habitat for the Mojave desert tortoise within the ROW cor- ridor that bisects the NCA, Eliminate 3,099 AUMs of livestock forage over the life of the RMP. (Map 2-2)	a) Beaver Dam Slope, b) Castle Cliffs, c) Cedar Pocket, d) Scarecrow Peak. Provide 3,099 initial AUMs of livestock forage within the NCA. AUM numbers may be adjusted depending on the results of ongoing rangeland monitoring. (Map 2-1)



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Water Rights



Management Actions

BLM will coordinate with local and state agencies as water protection plans are developed to ensure that federal land management actions or practices do not jeopardize drinking water quality.

Meet the goals of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act by implementing administrative actions in this Plan and continuing to prevent the movement of salts into drainages and waterways that flow into the Virgin River or its tributaries.

Pursue acquisition of non-federal lands from willing sellers within the NCA that would benefit the conservation and protection of surface and groundwater resources.

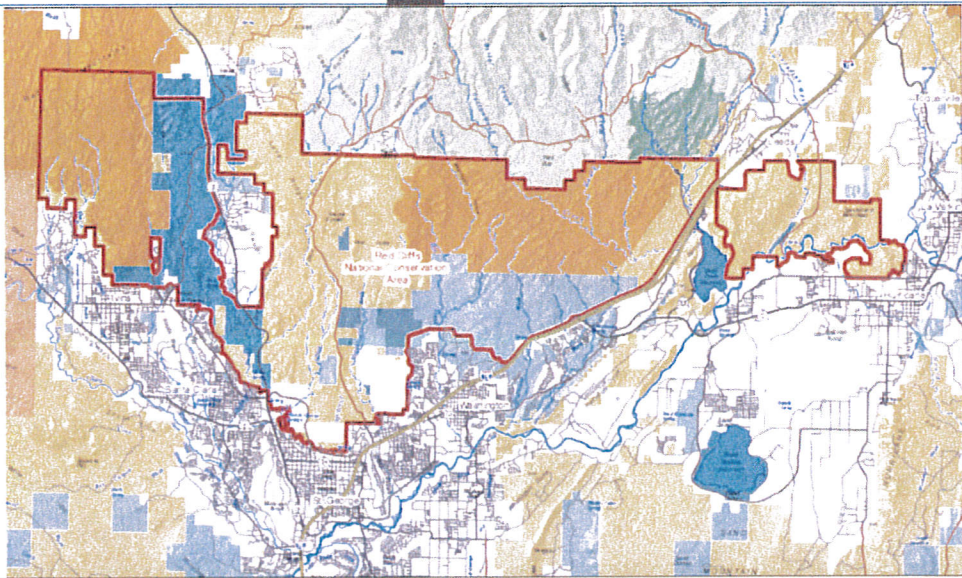
Pursue acquisition of surface and groundwater rights from willing sellers to benefit the conservation and protection of wildlife and improve aquatic habitats and riparian resources.

Do not authorize land uses that would export water from the NCA.

Work through the State of Utah's water rights system to ensure that BLM obtains water rights on all inventoried point water sources (springs, seeps, wells, reservoirs, etc.) for authorized beneficial uses of water within the NCA including wildlife recreation, domestic use within visitor facilities, and the improvement of aquatic habitats and riparian resources.

RMP page 56 and 179

The Red Cliffs NCA borders much of the most densely populated area in Washington County. Keeping all water on the NCA would affect municipal water supplies and growth.

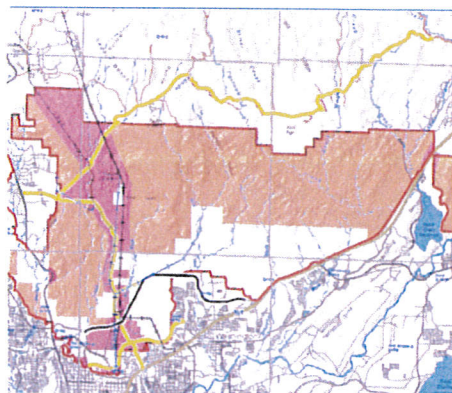


Collaboration and cooperation with local governments language is removed from alternatives B-D

Table 2-2 Water Resources			
Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Goal			
Water resources are conserved and protected to fulfill the purposes of the NCA and sustain ecosystem resiliency under changing climatic conditions.			
Objectives			
BLM's objectives for soil and water resources will be to work with municipalities, state and local agencies, and other interested parties to:	Surface water quality is suitable for appropriate beneficial uses, complies with approved federal and state standards, and meets or exceeds the applicable Utah Standards and Guides (Appendix D).		
a) Protect community watersheds and sources of culinary water;	Salinity and sediment loads in the Beaver Dam Wash do not increase as a result of land uses and authorized activities on public lands in the NCA.		
b) Reduce erosion, stream sedimentation, and salinization;	Research is supported that increases the understanding of ecosystem processes, cycles, and anthropogenic factors that affect water resources (e.g., fire cycles, vegetation succession) and that may influence climate change.		

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Northern Corridor Route



Black line – county preferred route

Yellow lines – other routes studied by the county

Pink area – BLM proposed corridor

RMP page 283

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

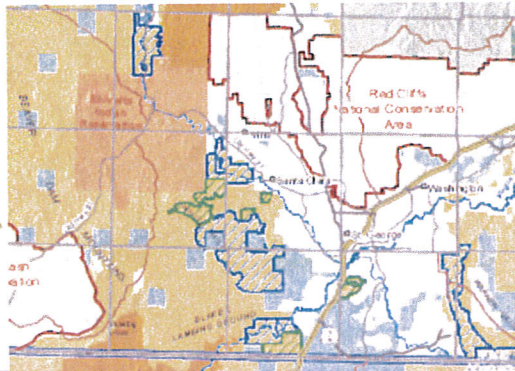
3 New ACECs proposed in Alternative B



ACECs are intended to protect sensitive species like the Geirish mallow. They would impose restrictions on current mountain biking, OHV, and hiking areas.

- Proposed Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- Existing Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- Field Office Boundary
- State Boundary
- National Conservation Area Boundary Outside Plan Amendment Area

RMP page 296

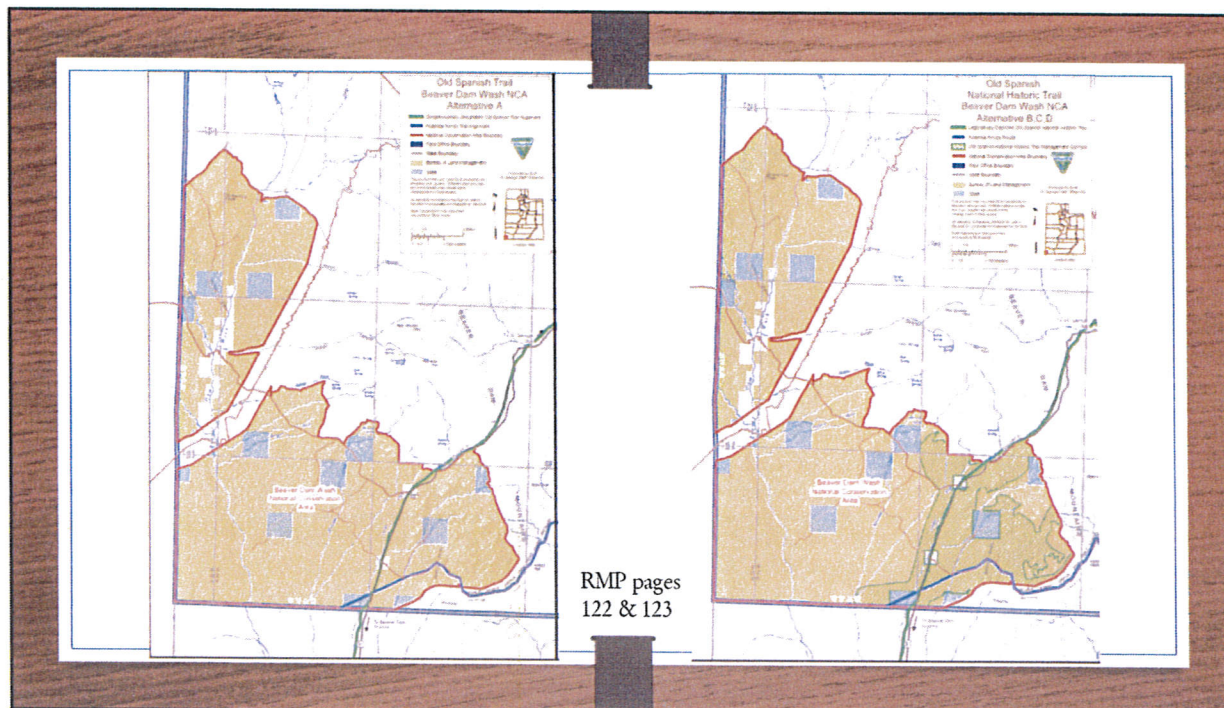


Old Spanish Trail Corridor

Table 2-25 National Historic Trails (Old Spanish National Historic Trail)

Alternative A No Action	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Goal			
Fulfill the conservation and public purposes for which Congress designated the Old Spanish Trail (OST) to the National Trails System through Public Law 107-325 in 2002.			
Objectives			
No similar action	<p>Establish an OST National Historic Trail Management Corridor that provides diverse opportunities for the public to connect with and experience trail history and resources.</p> <p>Manage the OST National Historic Trail Management Corridor to identify, conserve, and protect the historic trail and historic remnants and artifacts for their historic, scientific, educational, interpretative, and recreational values.</p> <p>Manage the OST National Historic Trail Management Corridor to conserve and protect the associated visual setting and natural landscape elements that are evocative of the period of trail significance and contribute to resource protection.</p> <p>Manage the OST National Historic Trail Management Corridor to restore altered natural landscape elements of the associated setting to trail-era condition.</p> <p>Enhance opportunities for shared OST stewardship through partnerships with the Old Spanish Trail Association, American Indian Tribes, state, county, and municipal governments, private landowners, and other groups and organizations.</p>		

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Wilderness Characteristics

OPLMA Language

(c) RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.—

(1) FINDING.—Congress finds that, for the purposes of section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782), the public land in the County administered by the Bureau of Land Management has been adequately studied for wilderness designation.

(2) RELEASE.—Any public land described in paragraph (1) that is not designated as wilderness by subsection (a)(1)—

(A) is no longer subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)); and

(B) shall be managed in accordance with applicable law and the land management plans adopted under section 202 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1712).

Wilderness Characteristics

Draft RMP Language

Table 2-64 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Table 2-64 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics			
Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Goal			
Lands with wilderness characteristics in the NCA are managed to conserve, protect, and restore those values.			
Objectives			
No similar action	Inventory all lands with wilderness characteristics in the NCA. Avoid potential project related impacts through land use authorizations and project design. Naturalness is conserved and protected through appropriate management actions. Naturalness is restored in damaged areas through management actions to re-establish native vegetation communities.		

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Eliminated Recreational Uses

- Collection of fossils and petrified wood
- Competitive equestrian and motorized events
- Metal detecting and geocaching
- Take off and landing of remote controlled aircraft or powered parachutes
- * Dispersed camping and OHV use are further restricted

• See Table 2-65



Activities Unnecessarily Restricted

Eliminating Options When Management Could Address Concerns



- Closing of grazing allotments rather than management for optimum range health
- No new ROWs (rights of way) rather than management through permitting
- Only allowing native seed planting, even after fires, rather than project specific seeding decisions
- Eliminating wildland fire rather than allowing for management decisions as necessary

Other Possible Sources of Concern

- No discharge of firearms in tortoise habitat except during licensed hunting
- Paleontological or heritage sites “projected to occur” in the NCAs will be allocated to one of the following uses: (how are projections made?)

Use Allocation Categories	Management Action	Desired Management Outcome
Scientific Use	Permit appropriate research	Resource preserved until research potential or data recovery potential realized
Conservation for Future Use	Protective measures, special administrative designations	Resource preserved until conditions for use are met
Public Use	Determine appropriate public uses	Resource preserved long term, with on-site interpretation
Traditional Use	Determine limitations on uses, in consultation with culturally affiliated American Indian tribes	Resource preserved long term

Effective Comments to the BLM

http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/st_george/planning2/nca_resource_management.html

Effective comments refer to specific details of the draft NCA RMPs or draft amendment. They address substantive issues, such as the accuracy of BLM's information sources; or provide new information; or suggest reasonable alternative courses of action.



All comments will be considered during BLM's decision-making process, but *only substantive comments will be addressed in the Proposed NCA RMPs and Proposed RMP Amendment/Final EIS*. We need comments that not only state a preference for certain management actions, but also include the reason for that preference. Tell us what you think of specific aspects of the alternatives—and why.

How to Comment

For Commenting instructions go to: www.blm.gov/sgfo

Comments can be submitted in using the following methods:

- E-mail: utsggrp@blm.gov
- Mail: Bureau of Land Management, Attention: St. George RMP Planning Team, 345 East Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah 84790.
- Fax: (435) 688-3252, Attention: St. George RMP Planning Team.
- Open House: Attend an open house in September and submit your comments in person.



The comment period ends on October 15, 2015.